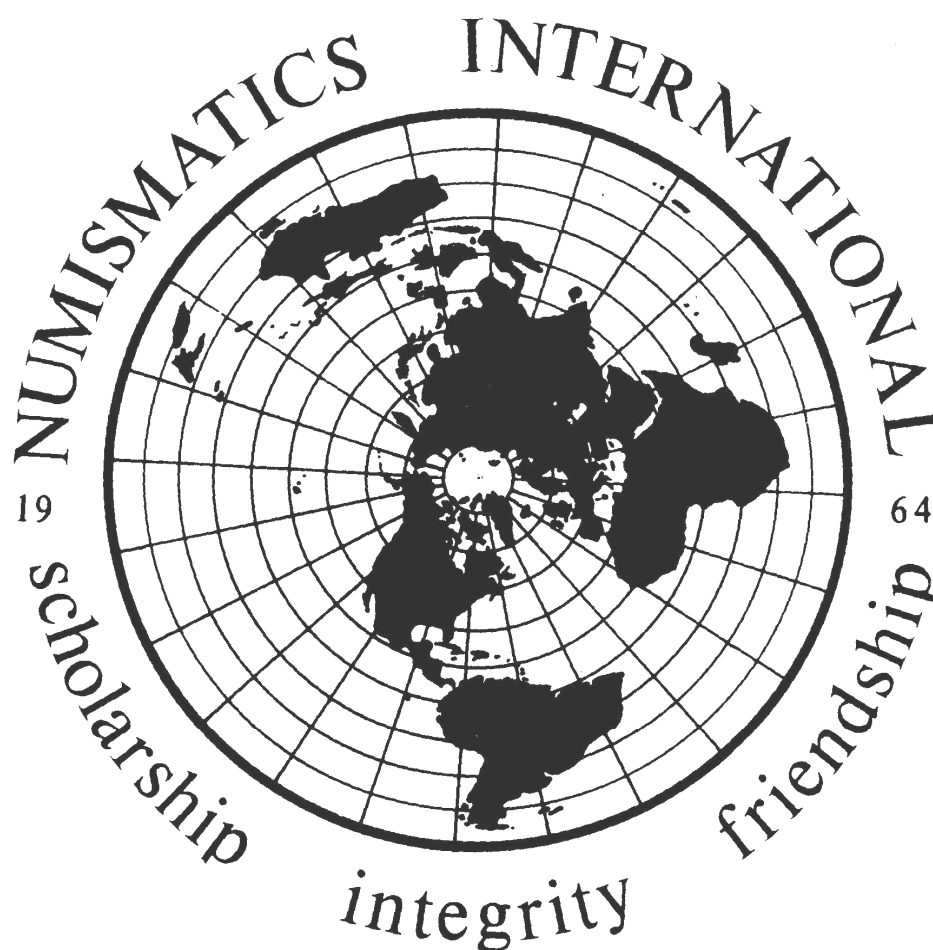


# NI Bulletin

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Welcome to the April edition of your NI *Bulletin*. With this edition we have our first submission from Alberto Paashaus, studying in Portugal, who writes on the early monetary history of Brazil, with emphasis on the Brazilian counterstamps applied to cob coins. Bill Mullan continues his series on modern German coins with some data analysis on coin pricing. Greg Brunk has a short article on a topic he is currently working on, political countermarks. Bob Forrest has an article on religious medals, and we have a review of his recently published book. Rounding out this edition, we have articles on early Japanese currency and a denarius from the Roman Republic.



## Librarian's Report

The NI Library thanks **Sanford Durst** for donating the following books:

BA65, BanF: 1984: *CBD Coins of Bible Days* by Florence Aiken Banks  
BD45, SagS: 2001: *BN Biblical Numismatics: Thirty Pieces of Silver* by Shirley Barr Sage.

The Library also has a copy of NI's latest book:

RA80, ForB: 2004: *IRM An Introduction to Religious Medals* by Bob Forrest.

These books and other books in the NI Library are available for loan to NI members subject to Library policy. The Library address and email address are on the inside cover of the NI *Bulletin*.



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## An Historical Outline of Early Brazilian Money

Alberto Paashaus

Brazil was discovered by the Portuguese on April 22, 1500. It is reported that the first instance of trading came the very next day when the Portuguese swapped some goods with the natives. Even though colonization began by 1532 as the English, French and Dutch joined the Portuguese in approaching the shores of the New World, all business transactions in Brazil would remain barter-based for a few decades longer, with such items as tobacco, sugar and *pau-brasil*,<sup>1</sup> being highly prized by the Europeans.

The official monetary history did not begin until 1568 when the king of Portugal, Dom Sebastião I, authorized the circulation of Portuguese copper and silver coins in the colony. However, the use of coins was very slight at that time. To solve that problem, the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Constantino de Menelau, in 1614 set the value of one *arroba* (a unit of weight, approximately 25 pounds) of white sugar at 1,000 réis, one arroba of the *Mascavo* (raw sugar) at 640 réis, and other types at 320 réis. Only the administrative staff of the Portuguese Colony could receive wages in metallic money.

During the Union of Portugal and Spain, from 1580 to 1640, the money used in the Brazilian Colony was the Spanish real, mostly coined in Potosí, Bolivia, and other mints throughout South America. The Spanish eight, four, two and one real coins corresponded at that time to 160, 80, 40 and 20 réis respectively.

The first coinage in the territory was made in the Brazilian northeast, which was under Dutch control after 1624. Because of the lack of tools to mint coins, they are very crude yet interesting because of their square shape. Gold coins were coined in 1645 and 1646 in denominations of III, VI, and XII ducats. In 1654, shortly before their departure from Brazil, they made silver coins of XII stuivers.<sup>2</sup> They mainly served to pay Dutch and mercenary soldiers in the territory, as well as merchants; today, there are less than 100 gold pieces known and only three of the known silver coins are considered authentic.

As the population and commerce grew in Brazil during the last half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the lack of metallic money became an increasing problem. A number of urgent requests came before the Portuguese Administration seeking establishment of a mint in the country. In 1694, the Portuguese king, D. Pedro II, established the first mint in Bahia, with coinage commencing the following year. The decree that authorized the mint also ordered that all existing gold and silver coins should be sent to the mint to be transformed into "Provincial Coins" in the values of 4,000, 2,000 and 1,000 réis in gold and 640, 320, 160, 80, 40 and 20 réis in silver.

Because of the great distance between the main cities of the colony, the mint of Bahia was successively moved: to Rio de Janeiro 1698-1700, Pernambuco 1700-1702 and then, back to Rio de Janeiro. The only copper coins circulating for small change at

---

<sup>1</sup> A native tree used for making dye and extremely strong lumber. The country's name, *Brasil*, comes from *pau-brasil*. The tree harvesters were called *brasílieros*.

<sup>2</sup> There is high controversy about X, XX, XXX and XXXX stuiver coins, which I assume, for strong reasons, are counterfeits of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

that time were the 5, 10, and 20 réis coins minted in Portugal (Porto mint) for Angola, and put in circulation in Brazil by royal decree. The reason the mint was transferred back to Rio de Janeiro was that gold was discovered in the region of Minas Gerais, near to Rio de Janeiro.

### **Counterstamped Silver Coins**

Because of the long war against Spain for (and after) the restoration of the independence of Portugal, huge sums of money were spent by the Portuguese Kingdom. In order to provide funding for the Restoration War, D. João IV (1640-1656), D. Alfonso VI (1656-1667) and D. Pedro II (1667-1683, as Regent and 1683-1706, as King) made successive alterations to the monetary system, diminishing the weight of the coins and increasing their value. Those kings also ordered countermarks over Portuguese coins and Spanish reals to increase their face value.

This counterstamping process began with the Law of February 3, 1642. It established the revaluation of the old coins at a 20% increase: 120 réis (over *tostões*, 100 réis coins and 2 reales), 60 réis (over half *tostão* and 1 real). Some coins were increased 25% (100 réis over 4 *vinténs* and 50 réis over 2 *vinténs*, where one *vintén* = 20 réis). These countermarks were used only in Portugal and their main feature is that the countermark shows numbers inside an incuse circle or square.

The following year the process of counterstamping coins began in Brazil with the Law of February 26, 1643. It increased the value of Spanish real coins by 50% for use in Portuguese Colonies and in Portugal. These countermarks are the crowned 480, 240, 120 and 60 réis over 8, 4, 2, and 1 real respectively. At that time, the exchange rate was 320 réis to one *real de ocho* (eight real). Illustrated below is the only example I know of such counterstamps on a Colombian eight real.



**480 Réis Counterstamp (1643) on Santa Fe 8 Real assayer P (1627-32)**

An interesting question may be raised: "Why would Portuguese people use coins of the country they were at war with?" The answer is that the enormous amount of silver coins the Spaniards were producing at that time in Spanish America were used so extensively Portuguese Colonies, namely Brazil (because of its proximity to Spanish areas), that the Portuguese could never think of banning Spanish money because the resulting shortage of metallic coin in Portuguese areas would have been too great to be tolerated. By these counterstamps the enemy's coins became official Portuguese money and brought more funds to the Restoration Cause. The law authorized the counterstamping at the cities of Lisbon, Évora, Porto, Faro, Salvador, Rio de Janeiro,

Maranhão, São Tomé, Cabo Verde, Terceira and São Miguel Islands, and Madeira Islands. With implementation of this law, the people were supposed to have their Spanish real type coins counterstamped; otherwise the owner could have them confiscated and incur severe penalties.

We know that this counterstamping was executed in Brazil at Salvador, Rio de Janeiro and Recife in 1652, by the Regulation of November 22<sup>nd</sup> of the same year.

The law of March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1663 once more re-valued both Portuguese and Spanish/Spanish American coins, now with an increase of 25%. This law created a big number of new countermarks and combinations with previous ones. From this law we can attribute the 600, 300, 150, 75 réis countermarks over 8, 4, 2, and 1 reals.



**300 Reis Counterstamp (1663)  
on Spanish 4 Real**



**300 Reis Counterstamp (1663)  
on Potosí 4 Real 1658**



**600 Reis Counterstamp (1663) on Potosí 8 Real (pre 1650)**

On March 17, 1668, D. Pedro II created the crowned sphere counterstamp. This counterstamp was placed near the border of silver and gold coins in order to avoid metal clipping. Applying a "reeded edge" was another measure established by that law to avoid illegal clipping.

The last counterstamping of silver coins in Brazil before the establishment of the mint of Bahia was authorized by the Law of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1679. This is an extremely rare series made only for Brazil in the values of 640, 320, 160 and 80 réis over 8, 4, 2, and 1 real respectively. This standard determined the value of the first Brazilian coins made by the Portuguese administration from 1695 to 1822 and part of the Imperial Period (1822-1833), in the system based on the *pataca* (320 réis).

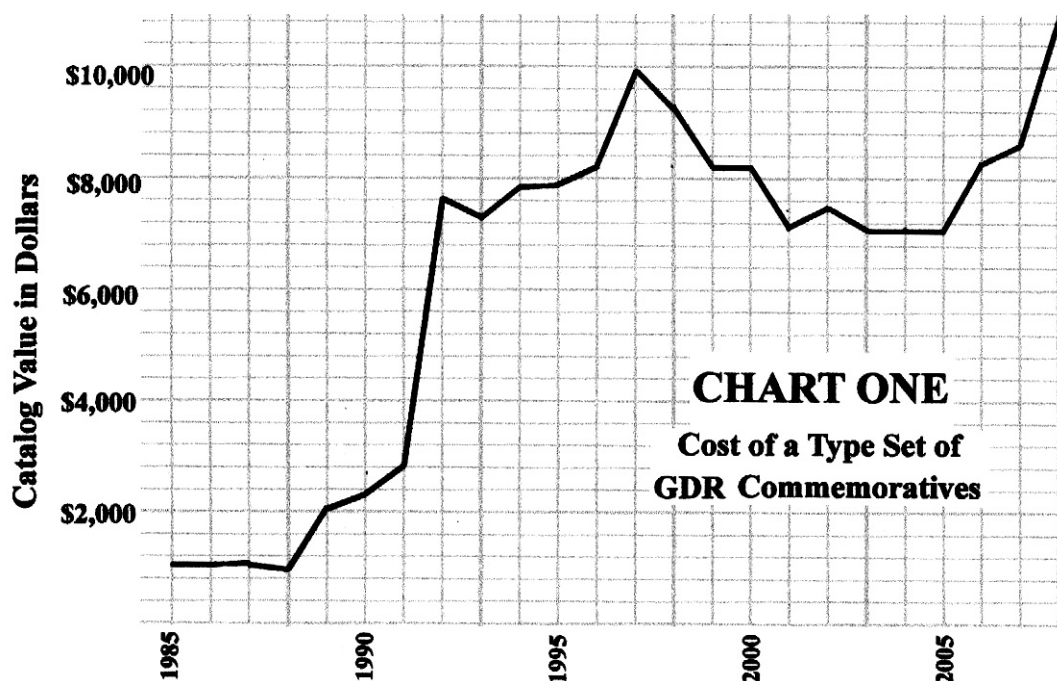
## The Commemorative Coins of the GDR

Bill Mullan, NI #1040

How do you honor someone with a commemorative coin? Would you honor him or her best by minting a great number of inexpensive coins of a non-silver alloy so that many people can afford them; or does making the coins of base metal show disrespect to the honoree? Should you make fewer of them but strike them of silver, thereby restricting their distribution to the wealthier members of the community? One of the aims of this series of articles is to examine how the German Democratic Republic (GDR) dealt with that decision 122 times in 25 years.

I have gathered all of the information printed in all the volumes up to the 35th (I count only 34) issue of Krause-Mishler *Standard Catalog of World Coins (SCWC)*. I don't know how the agendas of those who contributed pricing information have affected these values, but by using a uniform source for the figures I have at least achieved consistency.

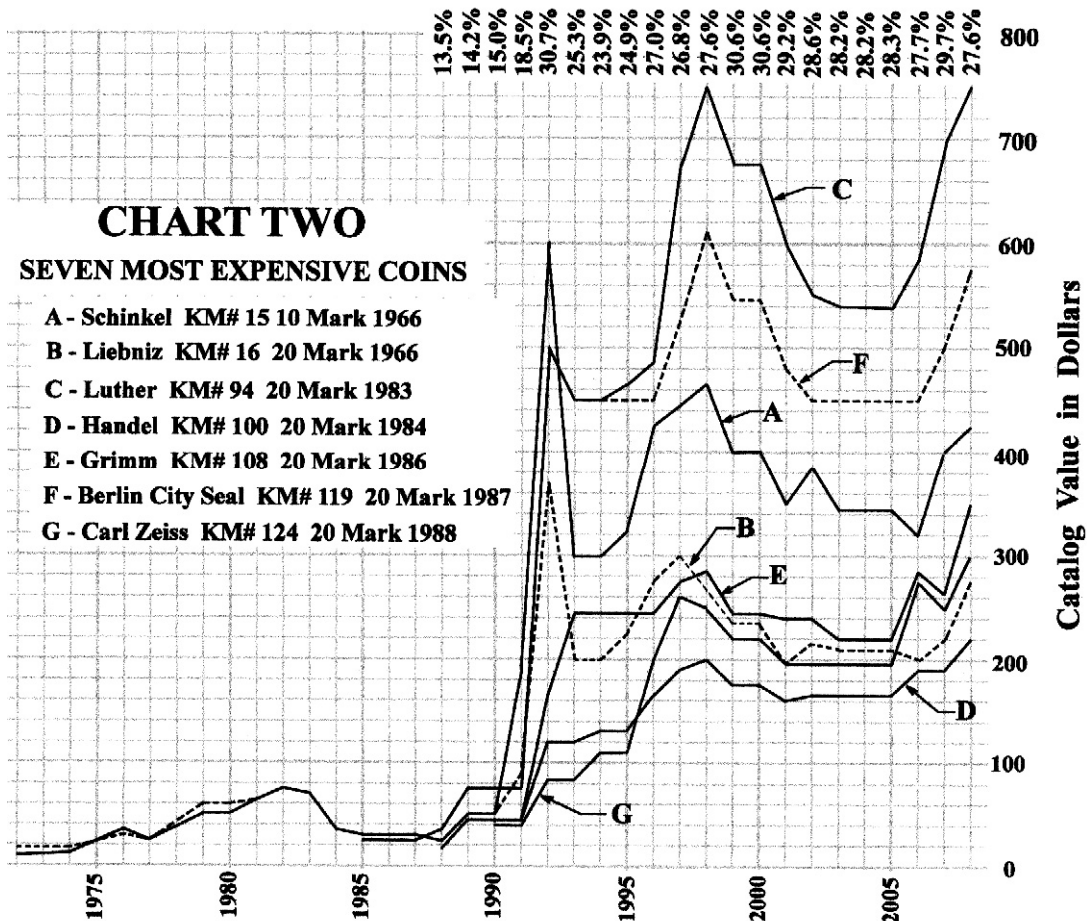
Since the value of the coins is a large and important part of this article, I will start with Chart One, which shows the cost of a type set of GDR commemoratives as published in the *SCWC* for the years 1985 to 2008. The total does not include the edge error coins of the early strikes but does include the mule of the Schweitzer coin KM #57 and the silver version of the Brandenburg Gate coin KM #139a.



Please note that the 1991 issue was the first to list values of all of the coins of East Germany. Thus, the value of the type sets for issues prior to 1991 do not include the coins that had not yet been released by those years. The value of the incomplete sets is shown to give some perspective to the 1991 increase in value. Of the 122 commemorative coins included in the type set; only seven are presently priced at over \$200 each. They are listed below in Table One in descending order of price (as listed in the 2008 issue of *SCWC*).

TABLE ONE - MOST EXPENSIVE COINS

Subject	KM#	Alloy	Denom.	Date	Mintage	Price
500th Anniv. Birth of Martin Luther	94	Silver	20 Mark	1983	45,000	\$750
Berlin-City Seal	119.1	Silver	20 Mark	1987	42,000	\$575
125th Anniv. Death of Karl Friedrich Schinkel	15.1	Silver	10 Mark	1966	50,000	\$425
200th Anniv. Birth of Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm	108	Silver	20 Mark	1986	37,000	\$350
100th Anniv. Death of Carl Zeiss	124	Silver	20 Mark	1988	37,000	\$300
250th Anniv. Death of Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz	16.1	Silver	20 Mark	1966	50,000	\$275
225th Anniv. Death of Georg Friedrich Handel	100	Silver	20 Mark	1984	41,000	\$220



All of the coins are silver, with mintages of 50,000 pieces or less, and all but one are the Twenty Mark denomination. Those with the lowest mintages are not the most expensive, and the ones with the greatest mintages are not the least expensive. The law of supply and demand determines how the price of a coin will change, so it is apparent that there is a popularity factor that comes into play that affects demand and counters the effect of mintage numbers. It is one of the challenges that the mint faces when trying to juggle the political, economic, and social elements that enter into their planning for next year's production: should the mints make many inexpensive coins or just a few expensive ones?



Chart Two shows the prices listed for these coins in the *SCWC* over the years. In this chart, as well in others like it, I have not attempted to show the graphs for all of the coins in the early years, they are crowded together too closely to be distinguishable.

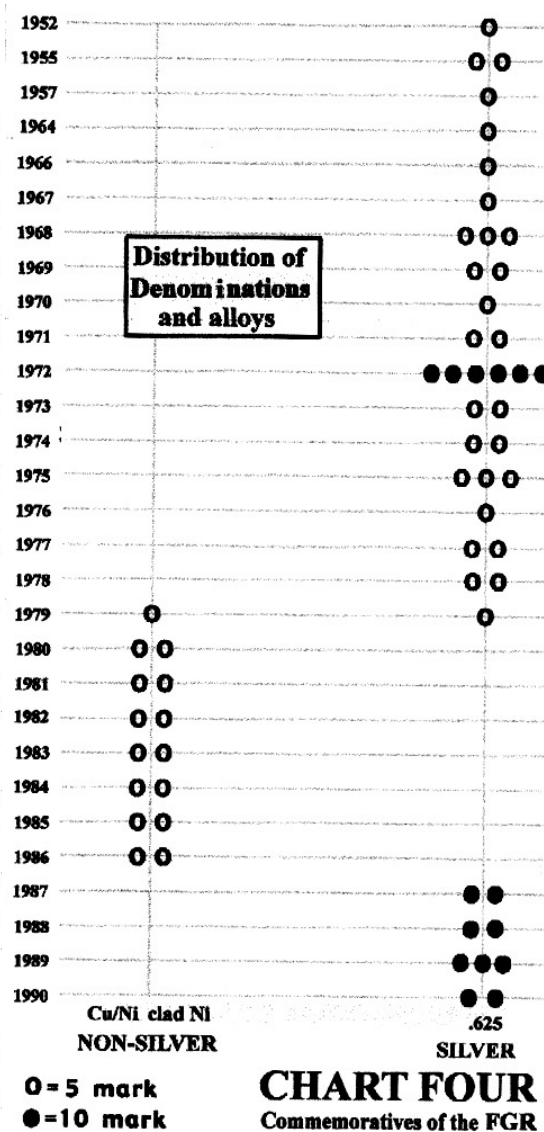
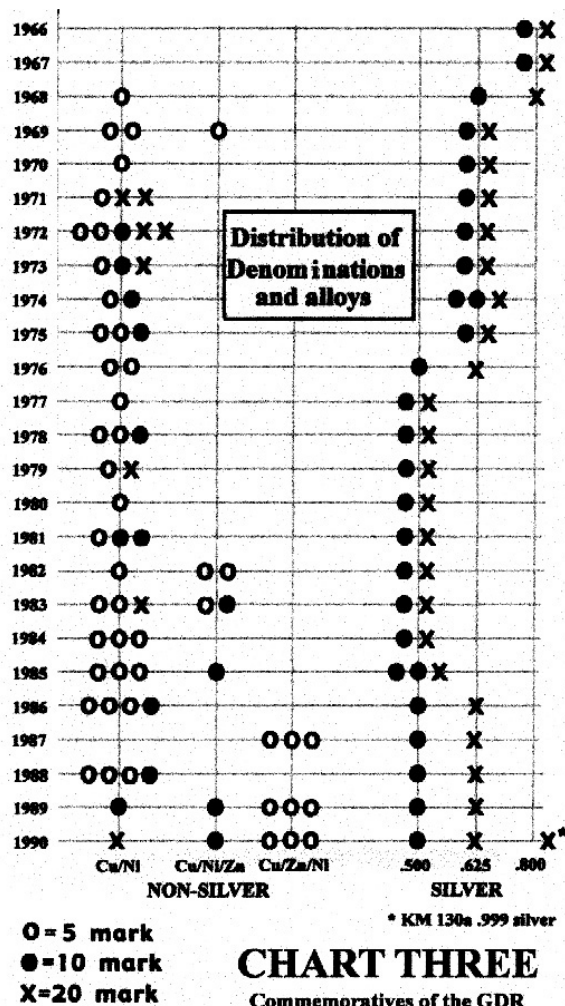


Chart Three shows the distribution of coin alloy and denomination of the coins of the GDR. The way the coins are grouped by denomination in the *SCWC* makes it difficult to see any pattern in the way the denomination and alloy of the coins varied throughout the years.

As seen in Chart Three, East Germany began minting both their Ten and Twenty Mark commemoratives in 0.800 silver. In 1968 the fineness was reduced to 0.625 and in 1976 was further reduced to 0.500. As to the base metals, the first coins were 75% copper and 25% nickel. In 1969 over 50,000,000 of a Nickel-Bronze coin, KM #22.1, were issued for the 20th anniversary of the GDR. This alloy contained only 10% nickel and had a reddish cast. This issue also included a small number of the standard 25% nickel coins, KM #22.1a. Coins of a less expensive Copper-Nickel-Zinc began in 1982 and there was a further reduction in the cost of the metal fabric in 1987 using

Copper-Zinc-Nickel. Note that they used their standard Cu-Ni alloy for some coins even when others were made of less expensive alloys.

Chart Four shows the equivalent information for the commemorative coins of the German Federal Republic. Prior to the first East German commemoratives issued in 1966, the GFR had released five such coins. The first four had mintages of fewer than 200,000 and catalog for between \$600 and \$1,200 in brilliant uncirculated condition. The fifth coin, dated 1964, had a mintage closer to 500,000 and catalogs at \$125 for an uncirculated specimen.

From 1964 through 1978 the coins were all 0.625 silver and were of Five Mark denomination except for the six Ten Mark Olympic coins. Mintages ranged from fewer than 2,000,000 to around 8,000,000. In 1979 through 1986 all of the coins were Five Mark made of Copper Nickel. Then in 1987 the Ten Mark coin became the standard and the mint reverted to a 0.625 silver alloy.

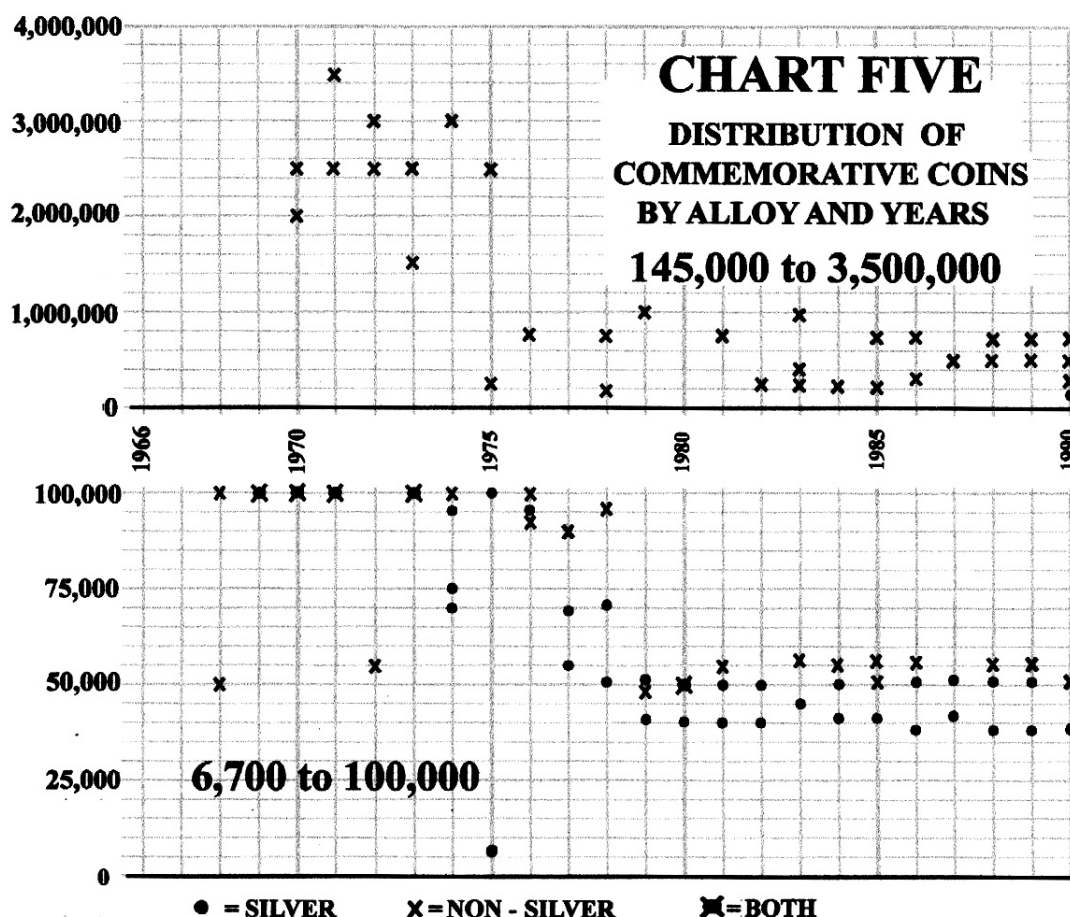
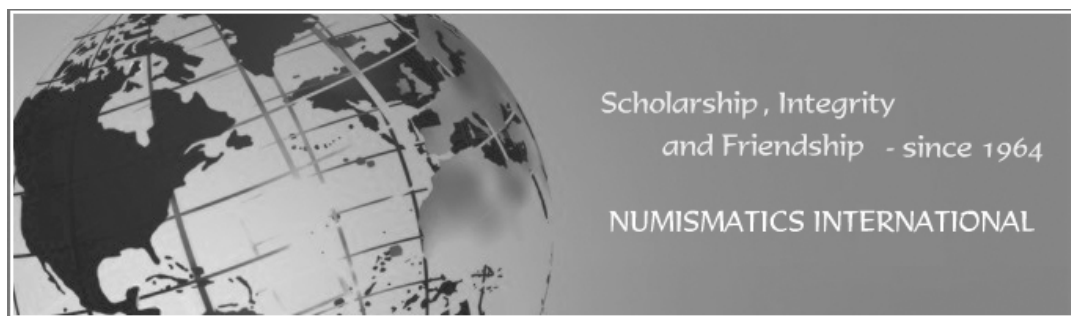


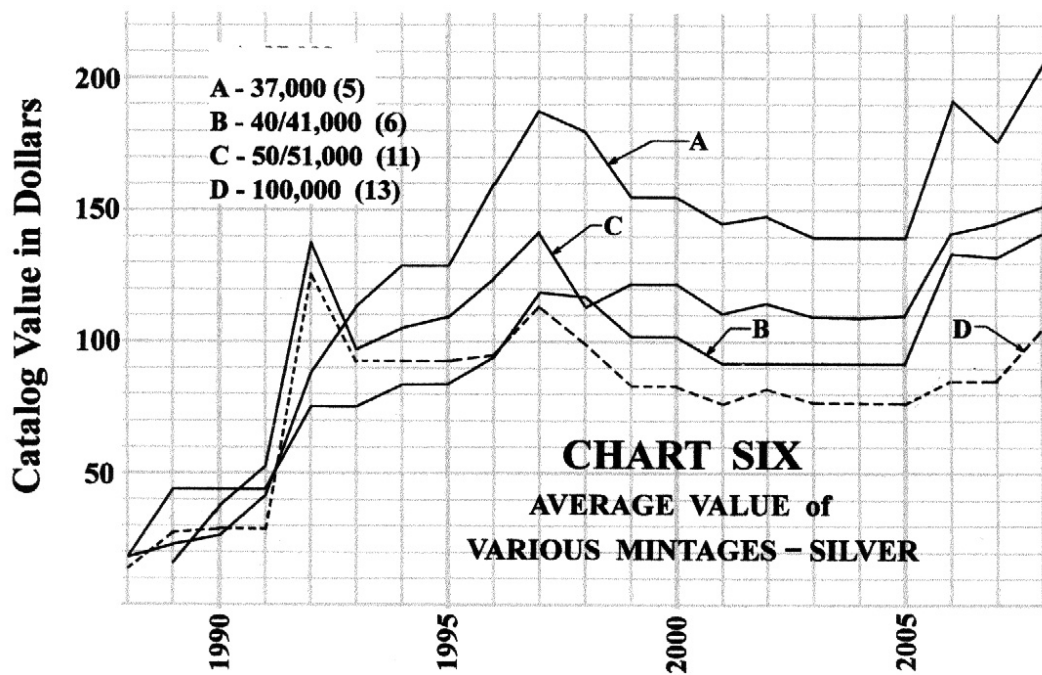
Chart Five is the companion of Chart Three in that it shows how the coins of East Germany were distributed by mintage number and metal. Because there is such a wide variation in the mintages, the chart is divided into two sections: the upper portion for large mintages (all of these coins are of non-silver composition except for the silver version of the Brandenburg Gate, KM #139a, of 1990), and the lower portion with a different vertical scale for smaller mintages. The experiment with high mintages in the early 1970's was discontinued in 1975. The Commemorative for the GDR twentieth anniversary, KM #22.1, mintage 50,222,000, is omitted.

Thereafter, coin production can be separated between non-silver which was concentrated in mintages of 1,000,000, 750,000, 496,000 and 245,000 and a mix of silver and non-silver coins in groups having mintages of 100,000 (1968 until 1976) and production in the order of 40,000 to 56,000 per coin spread out through the years 1978 to 1990. The coins in some of these groups are listed in Tables Two and Four on later pages.

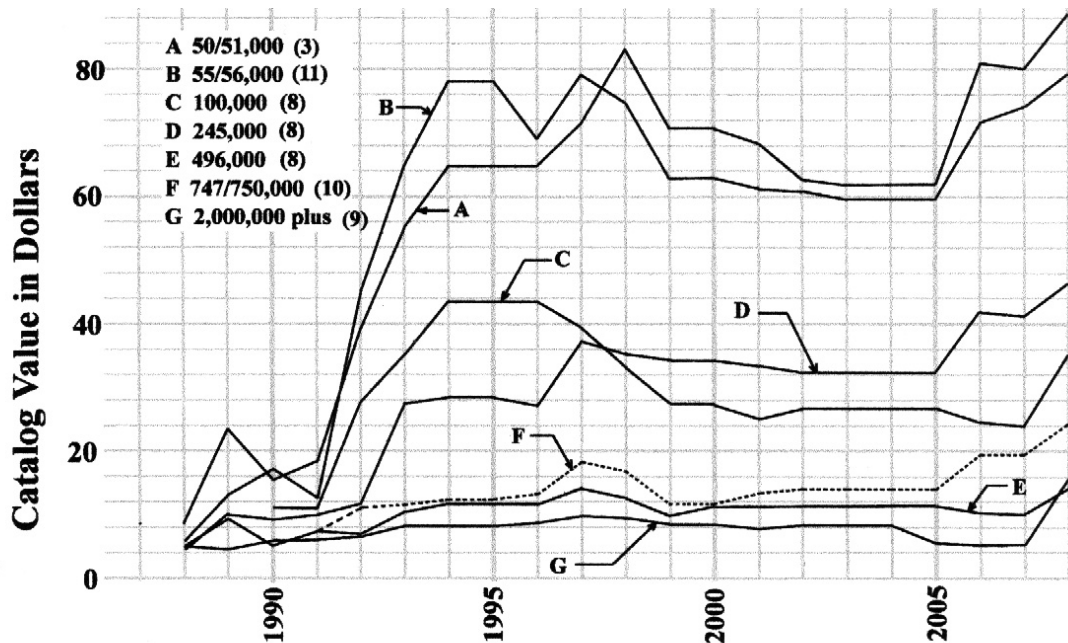
Although many of the non-silver large mintage coins commemorated buildings, places or anniversaries of the army or government, the small mintage non-silver coins also commemorated scientists, musicians, politicians, etc., including such notables as Einstein and Brahms, neither of which enjoys much more than average value. It is certainly not clear how the mintmasters decided who should be put on silver coins and who should not. On the other hand it is possible that the choice of a base metal had a depressing effect on the value of the coin no matter who or what was represented on the coin.

Some of the clusters with similar mintages shown in Chart Five and enumerated in Tables Two and Four are featured in Chart Six. It indicates how average catalog values of silver coins in some of these groupings (lettered A, B, C & D) changed throughout the years. Conventional wisdom would have the four lines stay roughly parallel with scarcer coins at the top and less scarce coins at the bottom. None of the lines behave that way. In 1992 both the C and D lines showed values higher than the low mintage coins represented by the A line. The value of the C coins stayed above those of the B coins most of the time. This indicates to me that the difference of 10,000 in mintage between C and D was not enough to overcome the "popularity" factor while the 50,000 (or more) greater mintage of the coins in the D line was enough to keep their values below all of the others.





In Chart Seven the same information is depicted for groups of non-silver coins. There are incongruities in the chart. Coins of the D line with mintages of 245,000 were valued more than the C line in later years in spite of the fact that there were over twice as many of each D coin; the F coins with a mintage of 750,000 were also valued higher than the E coins although half again as many D-coins were available. Both of these charts strengthen the conjecture that the "popularity" factor (demand) is enough to overcome a great differential in the number of coins that were struck (supply).



One group of coins deserves some special attention, those with mintages of 100,000 that were minted between 1968 and 1977. There are 21 of them: 13 are of silver, and

8 are non-silver. I purchased them all from the same dealer, at their initial offering price. So the statistics reflected in the following Table Two and Chart Eight reflect the same mintage, the same source, and initial price.

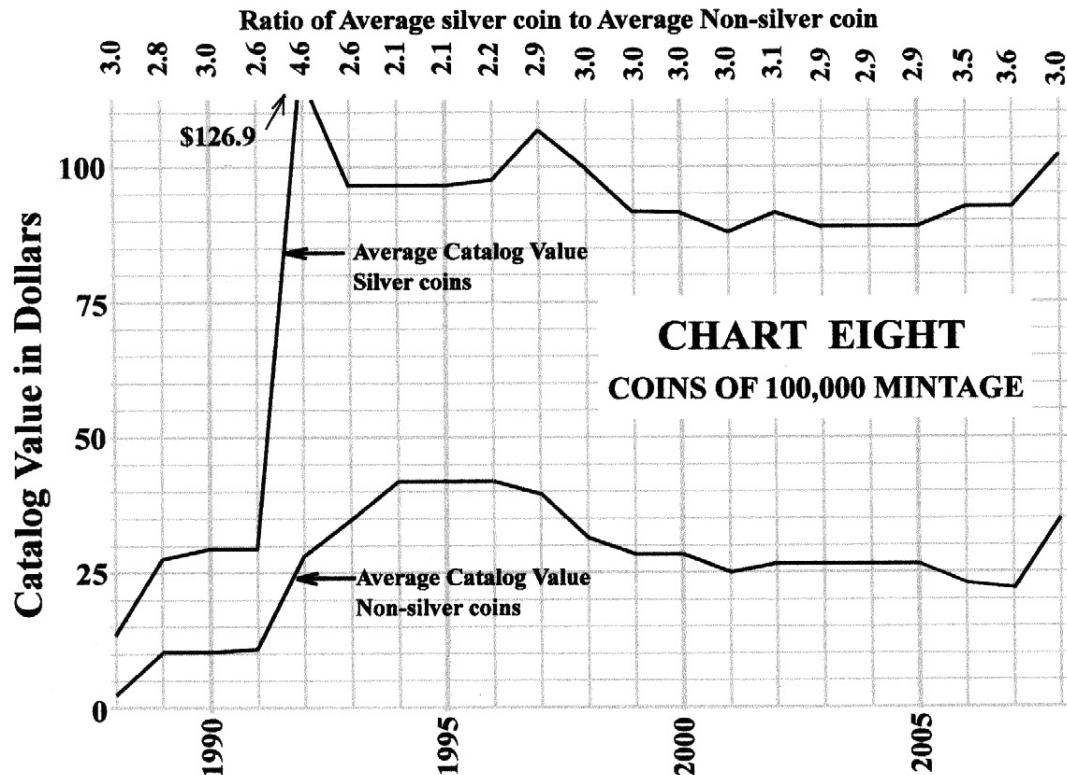
KM#	Marks	Subject	2008
25	20	Goethe	\$180
59	20	Bach	\$145
32	20	Liebknecht	\$125
21	20	Karl Marx	\$125
28	20	Engels	\$120
41	20	Cranach	\$110
46	20	Bebel	\$90
20	10	Guttenburg	\$85
39	10	Heine	\$80
45	10	Brecht	\$80
24	10	Bottger	\$75
31	10	Durer	\$75
27	10	Beethoven	\$70

### SILVER

**TABLE TWO**  
Coins with 100,000 mintage

KM#	Marks	Subject	2008
43	5	Lilienthal	\$60
23	5	Hertz	\$50
60	5	Schill	\$35
19	5	Koch	\$30
49	5	Reis	\$30
26	5	Rontgen	\$25
30	5	Kepler	\$25
54	5	Mann	\$25

### NON-SILVER



In this category of coins there seems to be a consistent value advantage for the silver coins. There is a wide spread between the most expensive and least expensive among the two categories, but the average of the silver coins is close to three times the value of the average non-silver in most years. The silver coins shot up in 1992 and suffered an immediate decline the following year while the value of the non-silver coins enjoyed a gradual increase that covered 3 years (1992 through 1994). During those years the ratio of values did not adhere to the 3 to 1 rule. It happened again in 2005 when silver coins increased slightly in value while the non-silver declined.

The 3 to 1 ratio also holds true for the most expensive coins of the two metals (Goethe, KM #25, \$180 versus Lilienthal, KM #43, \$60) and the least expensive (Beethoven, KM #27, \$70 versus Mann, KM #54, \$25). The average price I paid for silver coins with a mintage of 100,000, \$12.37, is 3.1 times as much as I paid for the average non-silver, \$3.98. The price of silver coins from the mint is going to be more than the price for non-silver. Initially, the dealers in the secondary market will base their asking price on what they had to pay the mint. Then factors on the demand side of the market will alter the dealers' strategies, and we can see that effect all along the line. Another comment on the class of 100,000 is that the Twenty Mark coins in Table Two are all higher valued than the Ten Mark coins, although in the 2008 catalog the least costly of the Twenty Mark coins (Bebel, KM#46, \$90) had only a five dollar advantage over the most expensive Ten Mark, (Gutenberg, KM #20, \$85). This too is probably a carryover from the price asked by the mint for the higher denomination coins. The Twenty Mark silver coins contain 1.3 times as much silver as the Ten Mark coins. I paid an average of \$15.65 for Twenty Mark coins, almost double the \$8.56 that I paid for Ten Mark coins.

Table Three lists coins in groups that share the same or nearly the same mintage. The coins are listed in each section of the table in descending order of their value as shown in the 2008 issue of *SCWC*. In some cases non-silver coins are of higher value than silver ones of the same or lesser mintage. A case in point is the coin commemorating the 175th Anniversary of the Death of Heinrich von Kleist, KM #112 a CU-NI Five Mark coin, mintage 56,000, which bears a higher value than all but the top three silver coins in a group that has a significantly smaller mintage, 50-51 thousand.

I'll let the reader try to figure out why the value of some of these coins behaved the way they did. Speaking as an American with an engineering education I cannot understand why the coin celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Death of Heinrich von Kleist, KM #112, 1986 (of whom I had never heard), has six times the value of the coin for the 75th Anniversary of the Death of Johannes Brahms, KM #36, 1972, one of my favorite composers, especially when the earlier coins tend to achieve higher values than later ones.

There is an obvious "popularity factor." The themes of some coins appeal to the public more than others, or in some cases the coins have a naturally larger potential market. For instance, note the variation in performance between the coins that were minted of non-silver alloys in numbers approximating 750,000 each. The coin relating to East Germany's participation in space flight, KM #70, outperformed all

others in that group. In the age of Sputnik there was an understandable pride in that accomplishment.

The second best performance was by the coin issued in 1988, KM #125, on the 40th anniversary of East German sports. The news of those days was filled with the achievements of Russian and East German athletes. I am surprised that the coin with this theme was not minted closer to the Olympic Games in Munich (1972). Of course both space and sports are a part of a collection genre that gives them international appeal as well as national.

By contrast, the coin whose value increased the least in this category is the Ten Mark KM #136 honoring the One Hundredth International Labor Day that occurred on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1990. In 2008, the Labor Day coin sold for one quarter of the price of the Space coin.

Along these same lines there are only two coins from the GDR that picture ships (City of Rostock, Five Mark KM #121 dated 1988, and People's Army Ten Mark, KM #80 dated 1981). Ship coins are one of the most popular collecting themes. In addition, the ship on each is a modern ship more desirable to some collectors who have tired of the ubiquitous sailing ships on so many other coins. The price performance of these coins indicates that neither of them seems to have benefited from special attention by international collectors of ship coins.

On the demand side the 20th anniversary of the GDR, KM #22.1, mintage 50,222,000, is the only one of the commemorative coins of East Germany that exceeds the 6 to 8,000,000 mintage of most of the commemoratives of the FGR. The 2008 catalog value is \$7.50 which is about the same as for the West German coins. When the inflation factor is taken into account, the present catalog value of these coins is less than the issue price.

In closing, here is a look at the 26 times the GDR and FGR celebrated the same honoree. The themes shared by the two countries will be discussed in some detail when I cover the GDR coins individually in later articles, but they are listed below in Table Four to provide an overview. The honoree of the commemoratives was not always honored by the two governments in the same year. This is often because they are citing two different anniversaries (such as 150th or 175th) or two different events, like birth or death. In several cases the FGR coin falls outside of the span of years during which the GDR was minting.

The FGR celebrated the "150th Anniversary of the First German Railroad" with a Five Mark coin in 1985 while the GDR celebrated the "First German Railroad" with a Five Mark coin in 1988, but didn't specify an anniversary. It did, however, credit Saxony with the railroad.

Mintage	KM#	Mks	Subject	Metal	2008
37,000	108	20	Grimm	Ar	350
37,000	124	20	Zeiss	Ar	300
37,000	138	20	Schulter	Ar	160
37,000	127	20	Muntzer	Ar	110
37,000	137	10	Fichte	Ar	110

37,000	108	20	Grimm	Ar	350
37,000	124	20	Zeiss	Ar	300
37,000	138	20	Schulter	Ar	160
37,000	127	20	Muntzer	Ar	110
37,000	137	10	Fichte	Ar	110

50,000	15	10	Schinkel	Ar	425
50,000	16	20	Liebniz	Ar	275
51,000	73	10	Feuerbach	Ar	190
51,000	128	10	Schadow	Ar	150
51,000	71	20	Herder	Ar	120
50,000	99	10	Brehm	Ar	100
51,000	113	10	Charite	Ar	90
50,000	101	10	Semper	Ar	85
51,000	118	10	Theater	Ar	85
50,000	87	10	Leipzig	Ar	70
50,000	81	10	Hegel	Ar	65

56,000	112	5	Kleist	Cu/Ni	\$180
55,000	55	20	Gauss	Ar	\$125
56,000	104	5	Neuber	Cu/Ni	\$100
56,000	131	5	Ossietzky	Cu/Ni/Zn	\$90
55,000	98	5	Lutzow	Cu/Ni	\$80
56,000	122	5	Barlach	Cu/Ni	\$80
55,000	84	5	Trobel	Cu/Ni	\$75
55,000	79	5	Riemenscheidt	Cu/Ni	\$70
55,000	76	5	Menzel	Cu/Ni	\$60
55,000	77	10	Scharnhorst	Ar	\$60
55,000	82	10	Mint	Cu/Ni	\$55
56,000	91	5	Planck	Cu/Ni/Zn	\$55
55,000	36	5	Brahms	Cu/Ni	\$25

Mintage	KM#	Mks	Subject	Metal	2008
245,000	89	5	Wittenburg Church	Cu/Ni	\$50
245,000	90	5	Luther Birth Place	Cu/Ni	\$50
245,000	96	5	Leipzig City Hall	Cu/Ni	\$50
245,000	97	5	Thomas Church	Cu/Ni	\$50
245,000	86	5	Wartburg Castle	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$45
245,000	103	5	Zwinger	Cu/Ni	\$45
245,000	85	5	Weimar Cottage	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$42
245,000	102	5	Women's Church	Cu/Ni	\$40

495,000	93	10	Worker's Militia	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$30.00
496,000	114	5	Nikolai Quarter	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$15.00
496,000	115	5	Red City Hall	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$15.00
496,000	116	5	Time Clock	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$15.00
496,000	120	5	Railroad	Cu/Ni	\$12.50
496,000	121	5	Rostock	Cu/Ni	\$12.50
496,000	129	5	Katharinen Kirche	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$11.50
496,000	130	5	Marien Kirche	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$11.50
496,000	134	5	Postal Service	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$11.00
496,000	135	5	Zeughaus	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$10.00

748,000	70	10	Orbital Flight	Cu/Ni	\$40
747,000	125	10	R. Germ. Sports	Cu/Ni	\$28
745,000	80	10	People's Army	Cu/Ni	\$25
745,000	106	10	Liberation	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$25
746,000	109	10	Thalman	Cu/Ni	\$25
750,000	61	10	People's Army	Cu/Ni	\$20
746,000	132	10	E. Germ. Gov.	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$20
747,000	136	10	Labor Day	Cu/Ni/Zr	\$10

2,000,000	33	20	Heinrich Mann	Cu/Ni	\$28
2,500,000	34	20	Thalman	Cu/Ni	\$20
2,500,000	42	20	Pieck	Cu/Ni	\$20
3,000,000	40	20	Schiller	Cu/Ni	\$18
2,500,000	47	20	Grotewohl	Cu/Ni	\$15
2,500,000	58	10	Warsaw Pact	Cu/Ni	\$15
3,000,000	50	10	25th DDR w/M	Cu/Ni	\$14
3,500,000	37	5	Meissen	Cu/Ni	\$12
2,500,000	38	10	Buchenwald	Cu/Ni	\$10

**TABLE THREE Groups of Coins With Like Mintages**



	GERMAN DEM. REPUBLIC					FEDERAL GERMAN REPUBLIC				
	Date	Mk	alloy	KM#	Mintage	Date	Mk	alloy	KM#	Mintage
Ludwig von Beethoven	1970	10	.625 Ar.	27	100,000	1970	5	.625 Ar	127	5,000,000
Berlin	1987	20	.625 Ar.	119	42,000	1987	10	.625 Ar	166	8,000,000
Brandenburg Gate	1990	20	Cu/Ni	139	300,000	1991	10	.625 Ar	177	8,850,000
Albert Durer	1971	10	.625 Ar.	31	100,000	1971	5	.625 Ar	129	8,000,000
Johann Gottlieb Fichte	1990	10	.500 Ar.	137	37,000	1964	5	.625 Ar	118	495,000
Carl Friederich Gauss	1977	20	.500 Ar.	66	55,000	1977	5	.625 Ar	145	8,000,000
Johann W. von Goethe	1969	20	.625 Ar.	25	100,000	1982	5	*	156	8,000,000
Johann Gutenberg	1968	10	.625 Ar.	20	100,000	1968	5	.625 Ar	122	2,900,000
Heinrich Heine	1972	10	.625 Ar.	39	100,000	1997	10	.625 Ar	190	3,000,000
Johann Gottfried Herder	1978	20	0.5 Ar	71	51,000	1994	10	.625 Ar	184	7,450,000
Humbolt (Wm. Vs. A&W)	1967	20	.800 Ar.	18	97,000	1967	5	.625 Ar	120	2,000,000
Immanuel Kant	1967	5	.625 Ar.	53	96,000	1974	5	.625 Ar	139	8,000,000
Robert Koch	1968	5	Cu/Ni	19	100,000	1993	10	.625 Ar	181	7,450,000
Kathe Kollwitz	1967	10	.800 Ar.	17	97,000	1992	10	.625 Ar	178	8,450,000
Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz	1966	20	800 Ar.	16	50,000	1966	5	.625 Ar.	119	1,940,000
Gotthold Ephraim Lessing	1979	20	.500 Ar.	74	41,000	1981	5	*	154	6,500,000
Martin Luther	1983	20	.500 Ar.	94	45,000	1983	5	*	159	8,000,000
Carl Marx	1968	20	.800 Ar.	21	100,000					
	1983	20	Cu/Ni	95	995,000	1983	5	*	158	8,000,000
First German Railroad	1988	5	Cu/Ni	120	496,000	1985	5	.625 Ar	163	8,000,000
Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen	1970	5	Cu/Ni	26	100,000	1995	10	.625 Ar	187	6,900,000
Albert Schweitzer	1975	10	.625 Ar.	56	99,000	1975	5	.625 Ar	143	8,000,000
Heinrich von Kleist	1986	5	Cu/Ni	112	56,000	1977	5	.625 Ar	146	8,000,000
Freidrich von Schiller	1972	20	Cu/Ni	40	3,000,000	1955	5	.625 Ar	114	199,000
Carl von Stein	1981	20	.500 Ar.	83	40,000	1981	5	*	155	6,500,000
Women's Church, Dresden	1985	5	Cu./Ni.	102	245,000	1995	10	.625 Ar.	185	7,450,000
Carl Zeiss	1988	20	.625 Ar.	124	37,000	1988	10	.625 Ar	169	8,000,000

\* Cu/Ni clad Nickel

**TABLE FOUR Themes Shared by the GDR and GFR**

Generally speaking, West Germany minted many more of each coin than the East did. The exception is the commemoratives of von Schiller where the GDR minted a huge quantity (3,000,000) while the FGR version is among the early commemoratives of that country of which only 199,000 were struck (see "von Schiller" in Table Four). This may have been part of an experiment on the part of the East Germans, for in 1971 and 1972 a number of commemoratives were issued with mintages in the millions. As one might expect, these coins did not increase in value as rapidly as the coins that were minted in smaller numbers.

West Germany dodged the question asked in the beginning of this article of how best to honor their honorees by minting most of their coins of silver and striking a great many of all of them. East Germany tried several alloys and a wide range of mintages. To use the changes in catalog values as the only measure of a coin's success in honoring a person or event may not be fair, but what else do you suggest?

*NI*

## Political Countermarks: BOMBA

Gregory G. Brunk, NI #749

My survey of the literature on countermarked coins suggests that at least seven different sorts of political countermarks exist.

1. Protest coins stamped with individual letter punches.
2. Protest coins made from prepared punches.
3. Countermarked coins sold by political organizations as a way to raise funds.
4. Political countermarks on coins that were sold as souvenirs.
5. Souvenir countermarks made many years after an event for sale to collectors.
6. Total fantasies sold at the time as political issues, but later revealed to be bogus.
7. Medal dies with political themes that also were used to countermark coins at the time of an event. While their original purpose was to strike medals, on rare occasions such dies also were used on coins.



### BOMBA Countermark

One of the lesser known political countermarks is BOMBA, which appears on 120 Grana of Naples and Sicily of the 1830s and 1840s. In 1848 a series of pro-democracy revolts rocked many of the European monarchies, and Ferdinand II bombarded his Sicilian city of Palermo to suppress the revolt there. Afterwards the Sicilians nicknamed him "Bomba" and stamped it on his coins as a protest of his rule.

I am preparing a series of articles to be published in the NI *Bulletin*. There must be more information about political countermarks than I have found; therefore I am seeking information about them. If you can help, please contact me: Gregory G. Brunk, PO BOX 125, Hudson, IA 50643, USA.

*NI*

**St. Godelieve**  
**Bob Forrest, NI #2382**

The pious Godelieve was married at the tender age of 18 to a Flemish nobleman named Bertuif of Ghistelles. (Her name is variously spelled Godelva, Godeleva or Godelina, whilst Ghistelles can be spelled Ghistel, or, as it is on today's maps, Gistel. It is some 12 miles southwest of Bruges.) The marriage was not a happy one, and to cut a long story short, both Bertulf and his mother treated Godelieve very cruelly. Then, one night in July 1070, Bertulf got two of his henchmen to lure Godelieve out of the castle, slip a noose around her neck, and strangle her while holding her head under the water of a nearby pond. That pond, or well, as it seems to have become in the course of time, was to be the scene of many miraculous cures. Drinking the water was found to cure illnesses of the throat, while rubbing it on the eyes was found to cure them of inflammation and disease. It was these cures which resulted in Godelieve being elevated to sainthood, and eventually becoming the patron saint of battered wives. In the 12th century a Benedictine Abbey was built near the well. This flourished until 1578 when its closure was forced by the Geuzen (Gueux) rebellion. It remained deserted and falling into ruin until 1891, when a convent was opened there. In 1934 it was reinstated as an Abbey, its name *Abdij Ten Putte* meaning literally, "The Abbey at the Well."

The white metal medal, shown 1-1/2 times actual size in Figure 1, shows on the obverse, two pilgrims drinking water from the well, with the legend "HIERWERD DE H. GODELIEVE VERSMOORD" (At this place the Holy Godelieve was smothered). The reverse shows the young saint being strangled by the two henchmen, with the legend "H. GODELIEVE BID VOOR ONS" (Holy Godelieve, pray for us) and in the exergue "GHISTEL."

The hexagonal white metal medal shown 1-1/2 times actual size in Figure 2 shows the saint on the obverse, apparently carrying jars of curative well-water, and with the instrument of her strangulation still in situ, in its original place around her neck. The obverse legend reads "STE. GODELIEVE GISTEL." The reverse shows the well itself, with the legend "ABDIJ TEN PUTTE" ("Abbey at the Well," as indicated above).



Figure 1

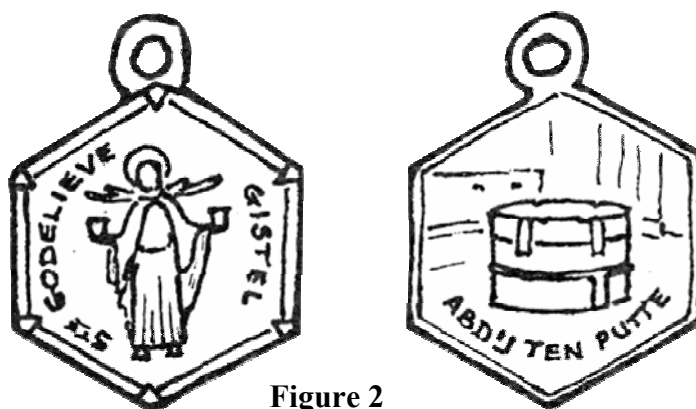


Figure 2

Both medals are of 20th century date. My friend André van Roy suggests that the first dates from about 1934-1940, shortly after the reinstatement of the Abbey, and the second from somewhat later, about 1946-1950, that is, shortly after the end of the Second World War.

#### Sources

There are good accounts of St. Godelieve in H. Thurston & D. Attwater's edition of *Butler's Lives of the Saints* (1956), vol. 3, pp. 26-7 and S. Baring Gould's *Lives of the Saints* (1897-8), vol. 7, pp. 160-4.

On the internet see:

[http://www.heiligenlexikon.de/BiographienG/Godeleva\\_von\\_Gistel.html](http://www.heiligenlexikon.de/BiographienG/Godeleva_von_Gistel.html)

For other references search on Saint Godelina (also Godelieve, Godeliève, Godeleva).

For additional information on the Abbey, see *Gids voor Vlaanderen*, by Josef van Overstraeten, revised by Jan Gerits (1985), p. 380. For St. Godelieve's role as the patron saint of battered wives, etc., see Michael Freze, *Patron Saints* (1992), pp. 137-8 (under "Difficult Marriages") and p. 180 (under "Victims of Physical Abuse").



### Coin Quiz: Favorite Countries

Bob Fritsch, NI #LM134

Here is a quiz listing several coinage themes for each of ten different countries, can you name them? Answers found elsewhere this edition.

1. Beethoven, Albrecht Dürer, Konrad Adenauer.
2. Bull, Salmon, Hunter (Horse), Harp, Woodcock.
3. Lajos Kossuth, Dozsa, Semmelweis, Liszt.
4. Cats, Harry Potter, Triskelion.
5. Elephant, Palm Tree, W.R. Tolbert, Jr.
6. Snake, Hidalgo, Cactus, Madero, Eagle, Cap and Rays.
7. Mountain and Trident, Bull, Himalayan Monal Pheasant.
8. Urraca, Balboa, Justo Arosemena.
9. Assegais, Flame Lily, Falcon, Sable Antelope, Queen Elizabeth II.
10. World Cup Soccer, Sarasate, La Rioja, Cathedral Sagrada Familia (Gaudí)



## Cornelius Sulla CNG



(Image enlarged)

Faustus was the son of Lucius Cornelius Sulla, the famous general and dictator of Rome (138-78 BC). The coin portrays Sulla's first great victory, in which he ended the Jugurthine War. Jugurtha, grandson of Massinissa of Numidia, had claimed the entire kingdom of Numidia in defiance of Roman decrees dividing it between several members of the royal family. Rome declared war on Jugurtha in 111 BC, but for five years the wily king frustrated all efforts to bring him to heel. Finally, in 106 the popular general Marius was assigned command, with Sulla as quaestor in charge of cavalry. Before Marius could take to the field against the enemy, however, Sulla arranged with his ally Bocchus of Mauretania to have Jugurtha ambushed and captured. Sulla was acclaimed for the bloodless end of the war, gaining his first victory and the eternal enmity of Marius. On the reverse of this coin, Bocchus offers an olive branch to a seated Sulla, with a bound Jugurtha kneeling beside him.

**Faustus Cornelius Sulla.** 56 BC. AR Denarius (3.80 g). Rome mint. FAVSTVS before diademed and draped bust of Diana right, wearing cruciform earring and double necklace of pearls and pendants, and jewels in hair pulled into a knot; crescent above, lituus behind / FELIX at upper right, Sulla seated left on a raised seat; before him kneels Bocchus, offering an olive-branch; behind, Jugurtha kneeling left, wearing beard, hands tied behind his back. Crawford 426/1; Sydenham 879; Kestner 3455; BMCRR Rome 3824; Cornelia 59.

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***Hansatsu: From First Issue to Prohibition in the Early 1700s***  
**Mari Ohnuki, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan**



The Fukui clan in Echizen issued *hansatsu* (clan notes) from 1661 to 1673. Pictured above is a silver 10-momme note issued in 1666. On both sides of the denomination, written in ink, is traced a row of characters with a different shape and meaning but pronounced identically to the "ten" in the note's denomination.

During the Edo Period, the Tokugawa Shogunate issued specie (gold, silver, and copper coins) while local feudal lords known as *daimyo* issued paper money that normally was meant to circulate only within their fiefs. This paper money issued by the feudal clans (*han*) was called *hansatsu*. The oldest extant example of these notes was issued in Fukui in the Echizen region in 1661, but records indicate that *hansatsu* arose first in Fukuyama in the Bingo region in 1630.

Morphologically, hansatsu trace their origins to the privately issued notes that evolved from merchants' trading practices that led to Yamada *Hagaki* and similar commercial notes.<sup>1</sup> Hansatsu, however, were issued by daimyo to serve as legal tender only within their own domains and functioned as currency from the beginning.

The issuing of this local paper money is thought by some to derive from the financial straits of local clans. Indeed, a natural disaster, poor rice harvest, famine, or other such calamity frequently led to reduced tax revenues, and the increased cost of maintaining public works and repair projects to relieve stricken inhabitants also worsened local fiefs' financial situation. Paper money was thus an expedient in these times of crisis, and hansatsu issues were almost always authorized by the shogunate. Despite the central government's desire to unite the country under a common currency system using three types of coin (gold, silver, and copper) under the shogunate's monopoly, it was impossible to avoid entirely the sanctioning of hansatsu issues to relieve local clans' poverty.

The hansatsu themselves were based on the three-coin standard and were of three types: gold, silver, and copper notes. Some clans professed the exchangeability of their paper money for specie. Most clans either prohibited the circulation of specie in their territories, making hansatsu the sole legal tender, charged a fee for the exchange of hansatsu for money in coin or offered a premium for the exchange of specie for the local paper money, since hansatsu issues far exceeded most clans' actual specie reserves.

In 1707, however, the shogunate banned paper money. Ostensibly, this was to curb abuses stemming from the spread of the use of hansatsu beyond the boundaries of the local fiefs that had issued them. In reality, however, the national coinage had been debased with the re-minting of coins in 1695 and 1707, and the prohibition of paper money was meant to facilitate circulation of the newly minted coinage. By the year of the ban, more than 50 feudal clans had issued their own local paper money; its prohibition caused great turmoil and confusion when hansatsu had to be exchanged for specie.

The image (not actual size) is courtesy of Currency Museum, Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies, Bank of Japan.



#### Quiz Answers

1. Federal Republic of Germany. 2. Ireland. 3. Hungary. 4. Isle of Man. 5. Liberia.  
6. Mexico. 7. Nepal. 8. Panama. 9. Rhodesia. 10. Spain.



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<sup>1</sup> For Yamada Hagaki see "Yamada Hagaki, Japan's First Paper Money," by Mari Ohnuki in *NI Bulletin* Vol. 43 number 3, March 2008, pp. 61-2.

## Book News and Reviews

***An Introduction to Religious Medals*, by Bob Forrest. Published by Numismatics International, 2007, ISBN 1-889172-25-1. 211 numbered pages, hardbound, 8.5 x 11 inches.**

Wow, what a topic to get a handle on!

I have been an NI member for about 15 years now, and have enjoyed reading Mr. Forrest's articles in the NI *Bulletin* for much of that time.

This book is not a catalog of every saint, location, venerable relic, or devotional commemorative issued. That is a good thing; there are too many! The medals which are discussed were chosen by the author, and those select medals are grouped by person (saint) or place. Short descriptions of the life of the saint or the place of pilgrimage and why that place is important are included to give the reader a base as to why the medals and the particular devotion has come to be. Catholic saints and locations of devotion are the scope of the book.

The religious medal is that one inexpensive trinket that a visitor to a shrine could buy and keep as a remembrance, or pass along to a friend who was not able to visit. Perhaps even help with a devotion. As far as the Miraculous Medal is concerned, it has a great story—the design was revealed in a vision by Mary herself! (She should be the patron of medal manufacturers as thousands of varieties have been produced since 1832.) I'm sure every mint in the world has done a miraculous medal!

Illustrations, as with his articles in the NI *Bulletin* are hand-lettered freehand line-drawings giving the viewer a good general idea of what is being discussed. However, in this age of technology, I do not understand why clear scans of photos were not used. I would expect clear photos and not line-drawings.

This is an amazing field, and this book has treated it on the surface, which is probably about as deep as one should go on the subject.

As a former Chief Usher at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, I come into this review with too much baggage. The gift shop at the cathedral probably offered over 250 different devotional items to buy. I remember once having the pleasure to view a collection of over 5,000 such religious medals (Thanks, fellow reader D.W. Johnson). St. George, St. Benedict, St. Joan of Arc and hundreds of others in eight different sizes and three different metals. There is a limit to the stuff one could collect. I passed at the time. I am still glad that I did.

Reviewed by George Cuhaj

The book is available directly from Numismatics International by check or M/O at: P.O. Box 570842, Dallas, TX 75357-0842 or NIBooks@verizon.net. Special postpaid sale price for this new publication until June 1, 2008 for \$55.00 (USA) or \$65.00 (International). PayPal (NIBooks@verizon.net). After June 1, 2008, retail price is \$59.95 plus S/H (\$4 USA) & (\$12 International). Dealers write for special discounts and drop ship pricing.

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